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The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

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The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

The General Assembly,

Considering the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolution 637 (1989) of 27 July 1989, and its own resolutions, particularly resolution 43/24 of 15 November 1988, in which it requests the Secretary-General to continue his good offices and to afford the fullest possible support to the Central American Governments in their efforts to achieve the objectives of peace, reconciliation, democracy, development and justice established in the agreement on "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America," of 7 August 1987,[1]

Reaffirming its resolutions in which it recognizes and stresses the importance of international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance, both bilateral and multilateral, aimed at promoting economic and social development in the region with a view to furthering and supplementing the efforts of the Central American peoples and Governments to achieve peace and democratization, particularly resolution 52/169 G of 16 December 1997, concerning international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, as well as its resolution 53/1 C of 2 November 1998, concerning emergency assistance to Central America, owing to the destruction caused by hurricane Mitch,

[1] A/42/521-S/19085, annex, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987*, document S/19085

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Emphasizing the importance of the development of the Central American Integration System, which has as its main objective the promotion of the integration process; the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America as the integrated programme for national and regional development, which contains the commitments and priorities of the countries of the area for the promotion of sustainable development; the establishment of the subsystem and of the regional social policy; the model of democratic Central American security; and the implementation of other agreements adopted at the presidential summit meetings, which taken together constitute the global frame of reference for consolidating peace, freedom, democracy and development and the basis for the promotion of mutually advantageous relations between Central America and the international community,

Recognizing the progress made in the fulfilment of the commitments contained in the Guatemala Peace Agreements, implementation of which is being verified by the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala, including the submission of the report of the Commission for Historical Clarification, the finalization of the programme for the repatriation of the Guatemalan refugees in Mexico, the compliance with the expenditure ceilings contained in the Agreements, the expansion of the deployment of the new National Civil Police, the approval by the Congress of the new Land Act and the establishment of the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women,

Taking note with satisfaction of the successful implementation of the Peace Agreements and of the consolidation of the process of democratization in El Salvador, as a result of the efforts of the country's people and Government,

Recognizing with satisfaction the role played by the peacekeeping operations and observer and monitoring missions of the United Nations, which carried out successfully their mandate in Central America pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, respectively,

Welcoming the changes and progress made by the Central American peoples, whose efforts have brought about, *inter alia*, constitutional reforms, the strengthening of civil society, the creation of new political forms, the holding of free and pluralistic elections, the creation of mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, freedom of expression, the strengthening of democratic institutions and of the rule of law, judicial reform processes and the adoption of a fairer development model providing greater opportunities for the Central American peoples,

Emphasizing the importance of the end of a critical period in Central American history and the start of a new phase free from armed conflict, with freely elected Governments in each country and with political, economic, social and other changes which can create a climate conducive to the promotion of economic growth and further progress towards the consolidation and further development of democratic, just and equitable societies,

Reaffirming that firm and lasting peace and democracy in Central America are a dynamic and ongoing process that faces serious structural challenges, whose continuation and consolidation are closely related to progress in human development, especially the alleviation of extreme poverty, the promotion of economic and social justice, judicial reform, the safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for minorities and the satisfaction of the basic needs of the most vulnerable groups among the peoples of the region, issues which have been a primary source of tension and conflict and which deserve to be discussed with the same urgency and dedication as was the case in the settlement of armed conflicts,

Deeply concerned by the devastating effects of hurricane Mitch and other natural disasters on the population and economies of the region's countries, and by the possible consequences of a significant setback as regards the efforts of the Central American peoples and the international community to overcome the aftermath of the armed conflicts and as regards the progress made with respect to political stability, democratization and sustainable development,

Emphasizing the international community's solidarity with the victims of hurricane Mitch, as demonstrated by friendly States' generous response to the emergency situation and in particular by the meetings of the Consultative Group on Reconstruction and Transformation held in December 1998 at Washington, D.C., and in May 1999 at Stockholm and resulting in the Stockholm Declaration in which the objectives and principles of reconstruction and transformation were established, and of which five countries agreed to initiate the follow-up process,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Commends* the efforts of the peoples and the Governments of the Central American countries to re-establish peace and democracy throughout the region and promote sustainable development by implementing the commitments adopted at the summit meetings, and supports the decision of the presidents that Central America should become a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development;

3. *Recognizes* the need to continue to follow closely the situation in Central America according to the objectives and principles established in the Stockholm Declaration in order to support national and regional efforts to overcome the underlying causes that have led to armed conflicts, avoid setbacks and consolidate peace and democratization in the area, and promote the objectives of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America[3], especially in the transitional period for overcoming the devastating effects of hurricane Mitch and other natural disasters, which entail extraordinary efforts for the reconstruction and transformation of the worst affected countries in the region, in particular Honduras and Nicaragua;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the global frame of reference and the establishment of national and regional development priorities as the basis for promoting the effective, consistent and sustainable progress of the Central American peoples, and for providing international cooperation in accordance with the new circumstances in and outside the region;

5. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in implementing the Guatemala Peace Agreements, calls upon all parties to take further measures to implement the commitments in the peace agreements, and urges all sectors of society to combine efforts and work with courage and determination to consolidate peace;

6. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the people and the Government of El Salvador to fulfil the commitments set forth in the peace accords, thus contributing substantially to the strengthening of the democratization process in the country;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the bodies and programmes of the United Nations system, and the international community to continue to support and verify in Guatemala the implementation of all the peace agreements signed under United Nations

[2] A/54/311.

[3] See A/49/580-S/1994/1217, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1994/1217.

auspices, compliance with which is an essential condition for a firm and lasting peace in that country;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of the Central American Integration System as the body set up to coordinate and harmonize efforts to achieve integration, a process aimed at establishing, gradually and progressively, the Central American Union, and calls upon the international community, the United Nations system and other international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to provide generous and effective cooperation with a view to improving the competence and efficiency of the Central American Integration System in the fulfilment of its mandate;

9. *Encourages* the Central American Governments to continue to carry out their historic responsibilities by fully implementing the commitments they have assumed under national, regional or international agreements, especially the commitments to implement the social programme to overcome poverty and unemployment, establish a more just and equitable society, improve public safety, strengthen the judiciary, consolidate a modern and transparent public administration and eliminate corruption, impunity, acts of terrorism and drug and arms trafficking, all of which are necessary and urgent measures for establishing a firm and lasting peace in the region;

10. *Reiterates its deep appreciation* to the Secretary-General, his special representatives, the groups of friends for the peace processes in El Salvador (Colombia, Mexico, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela), and Guatemala (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the United States of America and Venezuela), to the Support Group for Nicaragua (Canada, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden), to the European Union and to other countries that have contributed significantly and the international community in general for its support and solidarity in the building of peace, democracy and development in Central America;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of international cooperation, in particular cooperation with the bodies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and the donor community in the new stage of consolidating peace and democracy in Central America, and urges them to continue to support Central American efforts to achieve those goals, bearing in mind the global framework of the new regional development strategy, which is in keeping with the collective aspirations and needs of the Central American peoples;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the demonstrations of international solidarity and support for the region's reconstruction and transformation efforts following the severe damage caused by hurricane Mitch, which will enable the region to attain normality and continue its efforts to consolidate democracy and attain sustainable development;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to maintain sustained assistance to the region in order to create the conditions needed for balance between the challenges of reconstruction, economic growth and equitable social development that will ensure firm and lasting peace in the region and stresses the need to improve preparedness and the integration of natural disaster reduction componenets into development planning;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to lend his full support to the initiatives and activities of the Central American Governments, particularly their efforts to consolidate peace and democracy through the implementation of a new, comprehensive sustainable development programme and the initiative to establish the Central American Union, emphasizing, *inter alia*, the potential repercussions of natural disasters, in particular of hurricane Mitch, for the peace processes and the vulnerable economies of the region, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".